

Monthly Weather Report

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SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS COMPILED FROM RETURNS OF OFFICIAL STATIONS AND VOLUNTEER OBSERVERS

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JUNE, 1946—Unsettled, wet and dull

The month was unsettled, with depressions moving in a north-easterly or northerly direction over or near the British Isles. It was also dull and wet, with frequent thunderstorms; over most of England the month was cool, particularly in the south.

During the opening days a complex depression moved north-east across the British Isles to southern Scandinavia; rain, heavy locally in the south-west, occurred on the 1st and showers on the 2nd and 3rd. Thunderstorms were reported locally on the 1st and 2nd. On the 4th a depression was situated south of Iceland and a secondary developing off north-west Ireland moved east; on the 5th and 6th a complex depression off north-west Scotland moved north-east. General rain, heavy locally, was reported on the 4th, while rain occurred in the west and north on the 5th and 6th and widespread gales were experienced on the 5th. On the 7th a weak ridge of high pressure extended from north of the Azores across southern England to Germany and subsequently it spread north over the British Isles. Good sunshine records were obtained on the 6th and 7th. Meanwhile, on the 8th, a small depression over north France moved north-north-east and caused appreciable rain in eastern districts. Thereafter a new depression off south-west Ireland moved north-east and was associated with further rain on the 9th and 10th and strong winds in England on the 10th. On the 11th and 12th a trough of low pressure, associated with a depression over Scandinavia, moved slowly south over the British Isles causing widespread thunderstorms. An improvement in the weather occurred on the 13th with the eastward passage over the country of a wedge of high pressure but unsettled conditions were soon renewed by the slow south-eastward movement of a complex trough of low pressure which spread in behind the wedge. On the 18th a shallow trough of low pressure over south-east England moved east and on the 19th a small secondary depression over St. Georges Channel moved across southern England; somewhat widespread thunderstorms occurred. Another short spell of mainly fair, warmer weather prevailed on the 21st and 22nd, with the eastward movement over the British Isles of a wedge of high pressure. Temperature continued high on the 23rd but a front moving south-east over the country, with shallow secondaries moving north-east along it, was associated with rain in Scotland and thunderstorms in England. The latter were accompanied locally by heavy rain which caused serious flooding in some areas. Thereafter unsettled conditions persisted, with alternating fairer periods, until the 30th. Rain fell in most areas and was heavy locally on the 27th and 29th.

Pressure and Wind.—Mean pressure was below the average, the deficiency being greatest in the north-west; the deviation from the average at 9h. ranged from -7.2 mb., at Stornoway to -0.6 mb. at Plymouth. The pressure gradient was thus increased and winds from between south and west predominated. A widespread gale occurred on the 5th and a gale was reported locally on the 2nd, 4th and 10th; high winds were registered locally in Scotland on the 28th and 30th. among the highest speeds recorded in gusts were 72 m.p.h. at Durham, 71 m.p.h. at Bidston and 64 m.p.h. at Renfrew, all on the 5th (See Table II).

Temperature.—Mean temperature was below the average over the

country as a whole, the deviations for the districts ranging from $+0.2^{\circ}\text{F.}$ in Scotland, E. to -1.8°F. in England, S.W. A warm spell occurred from the 21st–24th and low minimum temperatures were registered locally on the 1st, 2nd, 7th 9th and 12th–14th. The extremes for the month were:—(England and Wales) 82°F. at Finningley on the 23rd, 33°F. at Houghall on the 13th; (Scotland) 82°F. at Montrose and Stirling on the 22nd, 30°F. at Dalwhinnie on the 12th; (Northern Ireland) 77°F. at Garvagh and Lisburn on the 22nd, 34°F. at Garvagh on the 1st.

Precipitation.—The general precipitation expressed as a percentage of the average for the period 1881–1915 was 137 over England and Wales, 148 over Scotland and 148 over Northern Ireland. The distribution was very irregular; broadly speaking less than the average occurred in extreme south-west Scotland, over part of south-east Scotland, over much of a mainly inland area in north-east England and the north Midlands and in a small area in the south-west Midlands. On the other hand more than twice the average was received in numerous small areas scattered throughout the country.

Among the heavier falls in 24 hours were:—

- 4th 3.42 in. at Borrowdale, 2.53 in. at Blaenau Festiniog (Merioneth) and 2.35 in. at Welfare Park, Maesteg (Glamorgan).
- 23rd 2.38 in. at Cullompton, 2.24 in. at Cantref and 2.15 in. at Salisbury.
- 29th 2.65 in. at Blaenau Festiniog.

The heavy falls quoted above on the 23rd occurred in short periods of time during thunderstorms. For example, at Cullompton 2.35 in. fell in 45 minutes, at Salisbury 2.12 in. in 50 minutes and at Cantref 2.00 in. in 60 minutes. The falls at Cullompton and Salisbury are of very rare intensity.

Rainfall was not only excessive but occurred very frequently: for example, measurable rainfall occurred on 29 days at Onich, 28 at Duntuilin and 27 at Achnashellach, Fort William and Garvagh.

Thunderstorms occurred frequently; they were reported on nine days at Cromer, Whipsnade, Raunds, Stratford-on-Avon and Cheltenham. Thunderstorms were widespread on the 11th, 12th, 18th and 19th and widespread and severe in England on the 23rd.

Sunshine.—Sunshine was appreciably below the average except in England, N.E., locally in Scotland E. and a few stations elsewhere. The percentage of the average was 88 in England and Wales, 82 in Scotland and 88 in Northern Ireland. The deficiency in sunshine was marked locally; for example, the percentage of the average was only 56 at Fort William and Onich, 66 at Ross-on-Wye and 64 at East Ham (London). At Ross-on-Wye it was the dullest June since 1916.

Fog.—The month was relatively free from fog, particularly in Scotland, except the Shetland Isles, and Northern Ireland. It was reported locally at times, (chiefly at night or in the morning) mainly on the 4th, 7th, 8th–9th, 13th, 14th, 16th, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th and 30th. Fog was widespread on the 23rd.

Miscellaneous Phenomena.—Solar halos were noted at Oxford on 19 days.